

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are pending. Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 were rewritten in independent format. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The Applicants also appreciate receiving a copy of form PTO-1449, on which the Examiner has initialed all listed items.

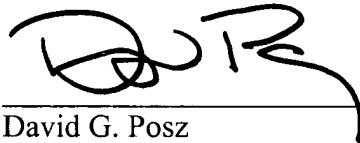
The Examiner stated that claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Schoos et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,663 B1). Claim 1 and 6 have been canceled and the merits of the examiner's rejections will not be discussed in this paper.

The Examiner stated that claims 2-5 and 7-10 were allowable if rewritten in independent format. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that these claims contain allowable subject matter, and have rewritten claims 2-5 and 7-10 in allowable, independent format.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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